

## SAILABILITY MARINA A POPULAR ATTRACTION

The Sailability Marina at this year's RYA Volvo Dinghy Show provided visitors with the opportunity to see a wide range of different boats designed for disabled sailors at close quarters. They were able to speak to representatives from the various class associations to find out about the boats, what would suit them best and what boats would be good to progress to in the future.

On display were seven boats; the Challenger Trimaran, Artemis 20, Paralympic 2.4 metre single hander, Skud 18 and the new Windrider 10, and two Access dinghies (203 and 303) 'moored' on a mini pontoon fitted with a loading hoist.



Ray Johnston Sailability Regional Organiser for the East Midlands commented: "The best thing about the Waverider 10 is that it's not only for disabled sailors but able bodied sailors too and there is no need to launch from a jetty so it's very easy to get into the water.

"The Dinghy Show has been fantastic for Sailability because it has given us the opportunity to create awareness by letting disabled people know where they can learn to sail and how easy it is to get involved. We have also been encouraging able bodied sailors to get involved with Sailability too," he added.

A spokesman for the Access Class said: "The show went very well for us, we were surprised at the amount of people looking to set up disabled facilities in their clubs and people were very interested the boat we had on display which is great for beginners."

The event was a good opportunity for visitors to chat with RYA Disability Racing Development Coach Matt Grier about how they could get involved in racing events and discuss their development pathway.

Debbie Blachford, RYA Sailability Manager said: "Having the marina at the show we've been able to show just how many different types of boats are available for disabled people to sail. It has also allowed us to provide greater awareness of just what sailing opportunities there are for disabled people and how clubs can integrate disabled sailing in to their clubs."

For more information about RYA Sailability click on the Sailability link at the bottom of the home page.